

GOAL

2020 TARGETS

**Laboratory
networks**

- ✓ Establish African Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories, with at least 30 member countries.

Core Functions of Public Health Laboratories (1)

- Disease Prevention, Control and Surveillance
- Integrated Data Management
- Reference and Specialized Testing
- Environmental Health and Protection
- Food Safety
- Laboratory Improvement and Regulation

Core Functions of Public Health Laboratories (2)

- Policy Development
- Public Health Preparedness and Response
- Public Health Related Research
- Training and Education
- Partnerships and Communication

What Is the Goal of Public Health Laboratory Networks?

- To provide high quality, accurate and timely laboratory-based information. This information should be used for public health decisions directed at effective control and prevention of priority diseases in a given territory and potential public health emergencies of international concern.
- COMMUNICATION is one of the most critical pillars of public health laboratory networks.
- An effective Network of Public Health Laboratories can be the catalyzer of all other ASLM 2020 targets

Current Scenario in Africa

- Lack of modern public health legislation and functional framework in many countries.
- Overlap of clinical and public health laboratory functions under the same roof.
 - Clinical diagnostic testing focus on individual patient care vs public health testing focus on the community.
- Detailed information on the extent of public health laboratory framework and services not readily available.

What Actions Have Been Taken by ASLM?

- Mapping of public health laboratories and services.
- Partnering with other institutions/networks (e.g. APHL, IANPHI, ASLM Collaborating Centers).
- Establishment of communication platforms.

The African Public Health Laboratories Network

26 countries and expanding

- Coordination and information sharing for strengthened national and regional health security
- Laboratory systems strengthening (workforce, quality, biosafety, sample referral, etc.)
- Improved south-south collaboration, research and training.



What Is the Way Forward?

- Complete the assessment of public health laboratory framework and services in Africa.
- Build effective partnerships with national, regional and global public health institutions.
- Assist national authorities to establish and/or strengthen national public health laboratories (services).
- Establish networking channels and opportunities for national public health laboratories.

THANK YOU!